

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/630,450

Examiner

Ha D. Ho

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 7/30/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/30/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. This Office Action is responsive to application filed on 07/30/03.
2. Claims 1-18 are allowed.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious a motivation to provide for a transfer case as defined by the limitations of claims 1, 6, 11 and 15; including an input shaft, first and second output shafts, a range unit, a range clutch, a range actuator for shifting the range clutch between its high-range and low-range mode, a mode clutch, a mode actuator for shifting the mode clutch between its released and locked modes, the mode actuator including a ball-ramp unit, and a power-operated actuation mechanism including a motor driving a drive shaft.

Wherein the range actuator is responsive to rotation of the drive shaft through a first amount of rotary travel, and the mode actuator is responsive to rotation of the drive shaft through a second amount of rotary travel as required by the limitations of claims 1 and 6, and wherein the range actuator and the mode actuator rotate with the drive shaft required by the limitations of claims 11 and 15.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

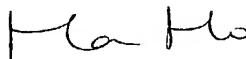
Art Unit: 3681

Cited Prior Art

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Pritchard et al.'342, Showalter'951, Williams'118, and Brown et al.'691 which each shows a transfer case including a range clutch, a range actuator, a mode clutch and a mode actuator.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ha D. Ho whose telephone number is (703) 305-0738. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

HDH
(703) 305-0738
July 9, 2004


HAHO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3681 7/9/04